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2-7-2009

### Obituary; 2009-02-07; McClester Thomas, Carolyn Bernice

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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### ***Pallbearers***

*Joseph Demps  
LeWelden Warren*

*Richard Thompson*

*Louie Veasey  
Arthur Wilson*

### ***Honorary Pallbearer***

*Fred Finch*

### ***Carolyn's Creed***

*If I had but one year to live; one year to help; one year to give;  
One year to love; one year to bless; one year of better things to stress;  
One year to sing; one year to smile; to brighten earth a little while;  
One year to sing my Maker's praise; a year to fill with work days;  
One year to strive for a reward when I should stand before my Lord,  
I think that I would spend each day,  
In just the very self-same way that I do now, For from afar  
The call may come to cross the bar at any time,  
And I must be prepared to meet eternity.  
So if I have a year to live, or just a day in which to give  
A pleasant smile, a helping hand; a mind that tries to understand  
A fellow-creature when in need 'tis one with me--I take no heed:  
But try to live each day He sends to serve my gracious Master's end.*

### ***Arrangements Entrusted to***

*H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary  
Buffalo, New York*

### ***Acknowledgement***

*Maybe you sent a card or made a dish, maybe you were there to hold our hands, maybe you just thought about us or said a silent prayer. Whatever you've done meant so much. The family of Carolyn B. Thomas sincerely appreciates your kindness. May God bless and keep you.*

# ***Homegoing Service of Carolyn Bernice McClester Thomas***



***Sunrise  
January 22, 1917***

***Sunset  
February 7, 2009***

***Friday, February 13, 2009  
Wake 11:00 a.m.  
Homegoing Service, 12:00 p.m.***

***Bethel  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
1525 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, New York***

***Reverend Richard Allen Stenhouse, Pastor***

## Obituary

Carolyn Bernice McClester Thomas was born to James and Lula McClester, January 22, 1917, in Swainsboro, Georgia.

Her initial education was obtained in Swainsboro, GA; and continuing her endeavor for higher learning she received degrees from Georgia State College (College of Home Economics) and the State University of New York at Buffalo, with a B.A. in Sociology.

During her extensive career she worked as a home economics teacher; a senior group worker with Friendship House in Lackawanna, NY; and as the Assistant Project Director for Child and Family Services' Outreach Program at Westminster Community House. She served as the first President of the Food Bank of Western New York, and was Chairperson Emeritus.

She was a member of the Litmus Study Club for fifty years; holding the office of First Vice President until her death. She was founder of the Mary B. Talbert Club and with every organization she was a member of, she provided inspiration leadership. She was active with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Omega Chapter concentrating her interest in programs that centered around youth, and was active with the annual Sweetheart Luncheon.

Through the inspiration and guidance of her father she developed a love for the AME Church. On December 7, 1952, under the pastorate of the late Reverend Harry J. White, Sr., Carolyn joined Bethel AME Church where she shared her time and talent by serving in the Women's Missionary Society; the Laymen's Organization; the Georgia Club, and the Commission on Social Relations.

She was always dedicated and gave her best, and because of this she had the honor of being elected five consecutive quadrennials to the general conference; served several years on the Connectional Episcopal Committee; the New York Annual Conference Trustee Board; served as District Church School Superintendent for twenty-three years and supported local and district conferences using her talents where needed.

Carolyn leaves to celebrate her life and accomplishments; her husband of 62 years, Eugene; a sister, Jimmie Lee Scott of Swainsboro, GA; a niece, Joann (James) Boone; great-niece, Carol Leggett and two great-great nieces, Keisha Ferguson and children Jazzmine and James Ferguson, Kayla Leggett and son Kristopher Leggett-Abray of Brunswick, GA; nephews, Charles (Doris) McClester of Teaneck, NJ, Cedric McClester of New York, NY; Annie L. Cooper, Ellison (Queney) Copper, David Augustus of Lansing, MI, Queeny Cooper and son Johnathan of Lincoln, NB, Jennie Foster of Sandersville, GA; Juanita Warren of Pontiac, MI; Godsons, Alexander (Denise) LeDous and daughter Andrea of Canton, MI, Willie Warren of Buffalo, NY; as well as a host of friends.

## Order of Service

### Prelude

### Opening Sentences

Clergy

### Selection "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

#323

### Prayer of Comfort

Clergy

### Scripture Reading

Clergy

Old Testament Psalm 23  
New Testament Revelation 21:1-6

### Resolution(s)

### Reflections (2 mins.)

Food Bank of Western New York

### Acknowledgements

Brother Willie Warren

### Obituary

Steward Vanetta Williams

### Solo

Steward Joseph Demps

### Eulogy

Reverend Clara Castro

### Recessional

"I'll Fly Away"

### Interment

Forest Lawn Cemetery  
Buffalo, New York